

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr Rob Smith (Acting Chair) Cllr Sue Hartfree; Cllr Keith Howard-Challis; Cllr Allyson Beerstecher; Cllr Steve Parker; Cllr Steve Gates; Cllr Rod Dadson; Parish Clerk Mrs A Smith and 8 members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed everyone and that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the Minutes.

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Dewar-Whalley; Cllr Ben Stokes and Cllr Mike Whiting.

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None.

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests
None.

3. Public Session

A resident spoke as a representative of the Ramblers Association and for other residents of the village asking the Parish Council if they would support the re-opening of footpath ZR39, off Breach Lane, which has been inaccessible for at least the last 5 years. It has been reported to Public Rights of Way Officer, but nothing has been done. The Ramblers are going to issue a Section 130, which will prompt the Council (KCC) to look into it and possibly take it to a Magistrates Court. The Landowner responded to say that there has never been a footpath across his land, it is not on his deeds and disputes the definitive map.

A resident is concerned about the Wardwell Lane in the Elm Lodge vicinity, as the verge has not been cut back and the road is now three feet narrower than it was 35 years ago. Two cars can no longer pass. He is also concerned about the drainage, as the drains are severely blocked. The resident added that a development is dumping huge lumps of concrete in a gateway in Wardwell Lane.

A resident complained of parking on the pavement between Egret Court and Westfield Cottages and the hedge is overgrown making it difficult to walk on the pavement.

A resident asked if the Parish Council would hold a register for anyone in the village that has CCTV as a modern version of Neighbourhood Watch to share and pass to the Police in the event of an incident.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

The Parish Council has received the resignation of Steve Gates as Chairman and Vice-Chair Cllr Smith stepped into the role for the July meetings. As there was no meeting in August the September meeting was the first opportunity to conduct an election.

Cllr Smith was nominated for Chairman by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher. There were no other nominations and Cllr Smith was duly elected.

Cllr Gates nominated Cllr Beerstecher for Vice-Chair and was seconded by Cllr Parker.

Cllr Hartfree nominated Cllr Howard-Challis for Vice-Chair who declined to stand.

There were no other nominations. Cllr Beerstecher was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

5. Visitors reports or comment

Cllr Mike Whiting sent the following report:

Further to concerns raised at your July meeting by a member of the public, I note that some work has been carried out by Kent Highways in Breach Lane. If further work is required then please let me know. I am waiting on a response from Kent Highways to a question raised by your Clerk relating to building a retaining wall by the burial ground.

They have looked at the site and I await their further advice. I am also waiting on a response from one of the land owners concerned in response to a question raised with me about flooding in The Street near to the pub. Historically, there has been an issue with the culverts and the dirties that serve it. I am seeking projects to assist with my Members' Community Grant funds. If you or any residents have schemes they would like help with that meet the criteria then please let me know. Details are at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined->

members-grant

6. To agree Minutes of 4th and 18th July meetings

The draft minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 4th and 18th July were accepted as a true record and the minutes were duly signed.

7. Planning Applications

It was noted that the planning application for 51 School Lane has been approved with some stipulations.

8. Planning Appeal Decisions

None.

9. To decide whether to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Gates proposed not to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan at this time, seconded by Cllr Beerstecher. The proposal was agreed.

10. To discuss Vandalism at Memorial Hall Allotments

It was decided to put an item in the Village News asking residents to report vandalism to the PCSO and telephone number 101. The CCTV at the Memorial Hall does not face towards the allotments.

Clerk

11. To Discuss Safeguarding Open Spaces

It was proposed to contact Shaun Branchett for advice regarding putting logs or old telegraph poles and a lockable post across then entrance to Gibbs Amenity Area.

Clerk

12. Discuss New Padlocks for Brickfields

It was suggested a combination padlock be purchased for use at the Brickfields gates. The combination would need to be changed on a regular basis. It was proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher to investigate the cost. The proposal was agreed.

13. Discuss Footpath ZR39 (round Home Farm to Mount Pleasant)

Cllr Beerstecher reported that this footpath had been discussed and was recorded in the Parish Council minutes of 1999. The Parish Council has powers to put in footpaths if the landowner agrees. In this case the landowner does not agree.

14. Reports from members and review of Action List items:

a) Brickfields

The firebreak is to be "battered" in the autumn. Cllr Beerstecher will attend the next meeting of the Friends of the Brickfield.

Cllr

Beerstecher

Parks and Leisure

The annual inspection report has been received.

b) Docks and Barges

The lifebelt housing has arrived and will be put up shortly. A grant will be requested from Cllr Dewar-Whalley to provide dispensers for doggie bags.

Clerk

The Dock repair will require three estimates from specialist contractors for the following three options:

- 1) To repair the dock wall;
- 2) To repair the whole of the west side of the dock;
- 3) To repair the immediate area.

Burial Ground & Allotments

It was agreed to obtain a quote to clear the uncultivated allotments. The cost will be invoiced to those tenants that have held their allotments for the last year and have not cultivated their plot, together with the annual rent due in October.

Clerk

The burial ground has been the subject of vandalism. It was agreed that the bank should be cut for an extra month until October.

Cllr Hartfree

c) Footpaths, Highways, Lighting

The hedge in front of Green Farm House is encroaching onto The Street. It was agreed to contact Mr Haines to ask him to cut the hedge back.

Clerk

Cllr Hartfree has received a complaint about the junction of High Oak Hill with Basser Hill that turning right is extremely dangerous because the vegetation obscures the sightline along High Oak Hill. There are more vehicles using that route because of the new houses built at Iwade and they are travelling too fast. Cllr Hartfree reported that the rubbish at the end of Crouch Hill Court is being cleared. It was agreed to report the narrowing of Wardwell Lane and to inform Newington

Parish Council of our actions.

15. Clerk's Report

- a) Correspondence:
 - i) Email from Shaun Branchett requesting if flail cutting is required for original firebreak, Westfield car park roadside hedge. It was agreed to go ahead.
 - ii) Received Children's Play Area Annual Inspection Report.
 - iii) Request received to report an obstruction on the footpath behind Blenmerrow – now Chapel House, Chapel Hill. This was reported and given the reference: PROW513448.
 - iv) Email from Judy Telford about a further leak in the main sewer and trees coming down along the Avenue and in the North corner of the Beanfield. This will be investigated.
 - v) Email from Southern Water requesting permission to survey the pipeline across the Brickfield.
 - vi) A quote has been received from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance in respect of the grass cutting currently undertaken by Commercial Services.
- b) Glasdon have delivered the lifebuoy housing and post to the Clerk.
- c) The Clerk has rented two allotments at Westfield and two allotments at Memorial Hall site. These two sites are now fully tenanted. There are five allotments at Tutts currently untenanted.
- d) The Clerk has paid in £80 for Westfield car park.
- e) Payment has been received from HMRC for £3089.52 in respect of the VAT reclaim submitted for the last two financial years.
- f) The bank balance is £52300.58

Cllr Gates

16. Finance Matters

Under the Local Government Act 1972 (Sch 2) the following cheques were signed.

| Payee | Description | Amount £ | Cheque No. |
|--|---|----------------|------------|
| Mrs S Hartfree | Dobbies Gift Cards for garden competition | 85.00 | 100307 |
| Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund | Hire of Hall 4 th July 2017 | 24.00 | 100308 |
| SLCC Enterprises Ltd (Society of Local Council Clerks) | Regional Training Seminar 2017 – Uckfield. Delegate Mrs A Smith | 41.40 | 100309 |
| Port of Sheerness Ltd | River Licence Annual Charge 29/8/17 to 28/8/18 | 1.20 | 100310 |
| Commercial Services Trading Ltd | Grounds Maintenance first half yearly invoice 2017 | 1157.12 | 100311 |
| Craigdene Ltd | Annual Inspection of the children's' play, shelters and ball games facility Invoice 1657/17 | 150.00 | 100312 |
| Branchett Limited | Re-pollard Crack Willows at Gibbs Amenity Area Invoice 170904 | 1440.00 | 100313 |

17. Reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council**a) KALC**

No report

b) Memorial Hall

No report

18. Items for Information only

Cllr Hartfree had received a complaint about after hours shouting and noise from the Three Tuns Pub garden in the early hours of the morning during the weekend of the Beer Festival.

Burial Fees, allotment fees and useful telephone numbers to be put on the Parish Council website.

19. To receive agenda items for the next meeting

Beacons of Light.

Verge cutting in strategic areas.

Faded Village sign and upkeep of street signs.

Litter pick Wardwell Lane.

a) Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd October 2017.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Date

Signed:

Cllr R Smith

Chair